



CONCLUSIONS

The Hague
XXXII COSAC, Tuesday 23 November 2004

COSAC:

Constitution for Europe

1. welcomes the signing of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe and its ratification by Lithuania, and calls on the parliaments of the other Member States and the citizens of Europe to endorse the Treaty, which is necessary for the adequate functioning of an EU of 25 or more members;

European Commission

2. welcomes the new European Commission and the important role the European Parliament played in its appointment, thereby strengthening European democracy as a whole;

Lisbon Strategy

3. urges all Member States to show effective political determination in the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy as discussed in the Kok report. COSAC urges EU governments to live up to the Lisbon Strategy, by ensuring more flexibility and well-functioning labour markets while respecting social cohesion, more investment in education and research, more and better jobs, and further reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases, with full respect for the ability of Member States to maintain or enact stricter environmental legislation in order to live up to the principle of sustainable development, and highlights the need for active involvement by national parliaments;

Biannual report

4. welcomes the latest biannual report of the COSAC secretariat on *developments in European Union procedures and practices relevant to parliamentary scrutiny* and considers that the report has provided a useful source of information for national parliaments in carrying out their functions in relation to European matters;

Subsidiarity principle

5. welcomes the early warning mechanism provided for in the Protocol on subsidiarity and proportionality in the draft Constitutional Treaty. COSAC decided to carry out an experiment applying the subsidiarity test to a legislative proposal from the European Commission. The practical experience of this experiment will be examined during the meeting of the COSAC chairpersons preceding the XXXIIIrd COSAC in Luxembourg;

Information exchange

6. decides on the principle of cooperation with the steering group on Inter-Parliamentary EU Information Exchange (IPEX); notes that its report will be submitted to the Conference of Speakers in May 2005 and asks the Luxembourg Presidency to take this report into account at the XXXIIIrd COSAC meeting;

Debating Europe in member states

7. took note of the declaration on European awareness in national parliaments, and calls on the European Conference of Speakers to provide for its prompt implementation by putting forward a proposal, in consultation with the European Parliament, on the specific week in which all the national parliaments will hold a debate on the annual legislative and work programme of the European Commission.